

Appl. No. : 09/231,415
Filed : January 14, 1999

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A purchase request management system comprising:
a system database comprising:

a plurality of purchase requests received from potential buyers and that
each identify at least one product and buyer data; and

a plurality of limited groups of one or more dealers accessible to the buyer
and that are designated to have access to purchase requests that identify a product
that the dealers sell, wherein each limited group of dealers has substantially fewer
dealers than an unlimited group of dealers that includes every dealer accessible to
the buyer that sells the product;

a buyer-dealer association software module stored on a computer-readable
medium and configured to exclusively assign each purchase request received from a
potential buyer to the one or more dealers designated by the system database to have
access to the purchase request; and

a dealer access software module stored on a computer-readable medium and
configured to permit each dealer to access the system database over a computer network
using a remote terminal and to view and manage only those purchase requests assigned to
the dealer.

27-99. (Canceled)

100. (Previously Presented) The purchase request management system of Claim
26, wherein the dealer access module permits each dealer to enter information about at least one
of the purchase requests and the entered information is stored in the system database.

101. (Previously Presented) The purchase request management system of Claim
100, wherein the dealer access module permits each dealer to assign at least one task related to at
least one purchase request to a user associated with the dealer.

102. (Previously Presented) The purchase request management system of Claim
101, wherein information about assigned tasks is stored in the system database.

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103. (Previously Presented) The purchase request management system of Claim 100, wherein the dealer access module permits each dealer to enter a status related to at least one purchase request.

104. (Previously Presented) The purchase request management system of Claim 103, wherein information about purchase request status is stored in the system database.

105. (Previously Presented) The purchase request management system of Claim 26, wherein the system database further comprises a plurality of product records, each product record corresponding to at least one product sold by at least one of the dealers and comprising at least a product type and an estimated product price.

106. (Previously Presented) The purchase request management system of Claim 105, wherein the system database is configured to be accessible over a computer network to at least one potential buyer using a remote terminal and to provide product information to the potential buyer.

107. (Previously Presented) The purchase request management system of Claim 26, wherein the system database further comprises a plurality of predefined sales regions and each purchase request corresponds to at least one of the predefined sales regions based on at least one geographic designation associated with the buyer data.

108. (Previously Presented) The purchase request management system of Claim 107, wherein the buyer-dealer association module is configured to assign each purchase request to only one dealer.

109. (Previously Presented) The purchase request management system of Claim 108, wherein the geographic designation associated with the purchase request is derived from contact information of the potential buyer to whom the purchase request corresponds.

110. (Previously Presented) The purchase request management system of Claim 109, wherein the geographic designation associated with the purchase request is derived from the potential buyer's zip code.

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111. (Previously Presented) The purchase request management system of Claim 26, wherein the system database further comprises a plurality of exclusive database regions, each exclusive database region being reserved for a single dealer and being configured to store only those purchase requests assigned to the single dealer.

112. (Previously Presented) The purchase request management system of Claim 111, wherein the buyer-dealer association module is configured to assign each purchase request to one or more dealers by storing a copy of the purchase request in the exclusive database region of each assigned dealer.

113. (Previously Presented) The purchase request management system of Claim 112, wherein the dealer access module is configured to permit each dealer to access a purchase request substantially immediately upon a copy of the purchase request being stored in the dealer's exclusive database region.

114. (Previously Presented) The purchase request management system of Claim 112, wherein the dealer access module permits each dealer to access only those purchase requests assigned to the dealer by permitting the dealer to access only the exclusive database region reserved for the dealer.

115-116. (Canceled)

Please cancel Claims 117-132 without prejudice or disclaimer.

117-132. (Canceled)